

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06  
TRSE-00 EUR-12 ERDA-05 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W  
-----271115Z 078257 /23  
O R 271037Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9171  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ESTC, AU, EI, UR  
SUBJECT: US ORIGIN COMPUTER EQUIPMENT TO USSR

REF. STATE 120966

1. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL MORNING MAY 26 WE IMMEDIATELY CONVEYED TO PAT MCCABE, COUNSELLOR, IRISH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INFORMATION THAT AUTHORIZATION HAD BEEN GRANTED FOR DELIVERY TO USSR OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. MCCABE SAID HE WAS "FLABBERGASTED" AT THE NEWS. HE REMINDED US THAT THE GOI HAD BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THIS CASE EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF PASSING SPECIAL LEGISLATION TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL POWERS TO HOLD THE GOODS IN IRELAND. HE WAS THEREFORE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT AUTHORIZATION HAD BEEN GRANTED FOR DELIVERY OF THE EQUIPMENT TO THE SOVIETS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EQUIPMENT WAS SENSITIVE; OTHERWISE, GOI COULD NOT SEE THE REASON FOR SUCH CONCERN OVER LICENSING THE SHIPMENT. IF INDEED THE EQUIPMENT IS SENSITIVE THEN THE GOI WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A CLARIFICATION OF THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE GRANTING AN AUTHORIZATION FOR SHIPMENT TO THE USSR.

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2. AFTERNOON MAY 26 WE WERE CONTACTED BY NEIL PETERMAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF MCVEY, AND VINCENT CONLON, MANAGER OF LEP IRELAND. PETERMAN HAD JUST ARRIVED IN DUBLIN HAND CARRYING THE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. HE INFORMED US THAT HE HAD APPLIED FOR AN IRISH EXPORT LICENSE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE BUT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A "COLD RECEPTION". OFFICIAL AT DEPARTMENT HAD ACCEPTED APPLICATION BUT WAS VERY UNCOMMUNICATIVE AS TO

WHAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN ON IT. PETERMAN AND CONLON WERE SEEKING EMBASSY ADVICE AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE. WE REPLIED THAT WE HAD NO ADVICE TO GIVE. USG HAD ACTED IN APPROVING AUTHORIZATION, AND IT WAS NOW UP TO THE GOI TO TAKE A DECISION ON THE QUESTION OF GRANTING AN IRISH EXPORT LICENSE FOR THE EQUIPMENT. CONLON INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO BRING LOCAL POLITICAL PRESSURE TO BEAR TO EXPEDITE THE GRANTING OF A LICENSE.

3. FOLLOWING SHORT CONVERSATION WITH PETERMAN AND CONLON MCCABE CALLED US TO STATE THAT HE HAD BEFORE HIM A COPY OF THE US AUTHORIZATION. HE NOTED THAT THE AUTHORIZATION PERMITTED THE SHIPMENT OF PART OF THE CONSIGNMENT TO SWITZERLAND AND THE REMAINDER TO AUSTRIA. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE LICENSE CONTAINED A PHRASE "AUTHORIZATION TO DISPOSE OF COMMODITIES OR TECHNICAL DATA PREVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED." MCCABE ASKED TO BE INFORMED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE WHAT THIS PHRASE MEANS PARTICULARLY THE TERM "PREVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED".

4. MCCABE INFORMED US THAT GOI COMPLIES WITH COCOM RULES AND THAT IT FULLY INTENDS TO APPLY THEM IN THIS CASE. AS A FIRST STEP IN THE EXPORT LICENSING PROCEDURE THE GOI HAS ASKED PETERMAN TO PRODUCE MATERIAL PROOF THAT THE GOODS HELD AT SHANNON CORRESPOND PRECISELY WITH THE DESCRIPTION IN THE US AUTHORIZATION. HE SAID THAT THE GOI MAY, IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE COCOM RULES, REQUIRE THAT THE SHIPPERS SUPPLY END-USER CERTIFICATES FOR THE EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION. A DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN ON WHETHER TO IMPOSE THIS REQUIREMENT.

5. MCCABE RETURNED TO THE QUESTION OF WHY THE US HAD GRANTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORIZATION. HE REITERATED THAT THE GOI HAD ASSUMED THAT THE ITEMS WERE SENSITIVE AND, IF SO, THEY WERE PUZZLED BY US AUTHORIZATION. IF NOT, THEY FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN OVER A LICENSE IN THE FIRST PLACE. HE ASKED US TO QUERY WASHINGTON AND TO OBTAIN THE ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A) IS THE EQUIPMENT COVERED BY US CONTROLS?  
(MCCABE AT THIS POINT NOTED THAT THE GOI HAS A GENERAL LIST BUT DOES NOT HAVE DETAILED LISTS OF COMMODITIES.)

B) WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE PHRASE IN THE AUTHORIZATION QUOTED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE?

C) GOI WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CLARIFICATION OF REASONS THE US GRANTED THE AUTHORIZATION

6. MCCABE INDICATED THE GOI WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REACH A DECISION ON THE APPLICATION FOR A LICENSE TO EXPORT THIS EQUIPMENT UNTIL IT HAD FULL INFORMATION ON THE NATURE AND SENSITIVITY OF THE EQUIPMENT

AND EXISTING CONTROLS AS WELL AS AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE USG  
RATIONALE IN GRANTING THE AUTHORIZATION. RENDAHL

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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